

manufacturers, airline CEOs, and other parties that will play a direct role in the transition to the new airport security system.

There are additional steps we are taking to increase the public's safety and its confidence in air travel. The FAA is deploying a core team of security professionals to improve oversight of screening and other security functions at our airports. I am instructing the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to conduct undercover audits of security performance at airports nationwide, to ensure the strict compliance of FAA security standards. And in September, I announced a \$300 million grant program to secure airport—secure cockpit doors on airplanes. And I commend the airlines for acting quickly. Major airlines have now fortified cockpit doors on 100 percent of their airplanes.

We're fighting a war on many fronts. It's a diplomatic war; it's a financial war. The military is performing brilliantly in Afghanistan, and we could not win the war without the help of the Guard and the reservists. And they, in turn, could not do their vital work without the support of their employers. Many employers are putting the national interests above their own self-interest, including the five recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employers Support Freedom Award. They have representatives with us today: Southwest Airlines, Boeing, EDS Electronic Data Systems, BAE Systems, and the City of Bedford, Virginia.

These employers are supporting the National Guard and Reserve in practical and important ways, including providing full pay, benefits, and job security to employees who are called to active service. Employers do these things because they recognize that their workers are fighting to keep America free. They recognize that we have such huge stakes. They also know that America's military forces are the best trained in the world. And when you hire a member of the Guard or Reserve, you bring that training to your workplace.

Since September the 11th, more than 1,000 State and local chambers of commerce have signed statements of support for employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

Well, the Federal Government, it turns out, is the largest employer of Guard and Reserve personnel in America. And I am proud to sign a statement of support on behalf of our Federal Government.

I am also pleased to sign the proclamation naming next week National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I would like to welcome up to the stage for the signing Paul Wolfowitz, who represents the Defense Department, and the five winners of the Secretary of Defense Employers Support Freedom Award.

I want to thank you all for your service to America. Thank you for coming to the White House. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7494—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2001

November 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our National Guard and Reserve forces play a vital role in helping America respond when our interests are threatened around the world. They are an indispensable part of our Nation's efforts to promote democracy, peace, and freedom, and, in the wake of the September 11 attacks, National Guard and Reserve units are deploying to help fight and win the war against terrorism.

Americans understand and appreciate the importance of our National Guard and Reserve forces, but many do not know the contributions their employers make in supporting these civilian soldiers. Employers share their greatest resource, their people; and, in so doing, they subordinate their own interests for the good of our country. Employers' willingness to sacrifice and bear the inevitable financial hardships and organizational disruptions that result are important contributions to our Nation's war against terrorism. By placing America's well-being above their own, they help our National Guard and Reserve units provide mission-

ready forces to help preserve our freedoms and protect our national interests.

Because this generosity enables Guard and Reserve troops to play an essential role in responding to the terrorist attacks, it is appropriate to honor the sacrifice American businesses are making in releasing their employees for military service. We express our heartfelt appreciation to these patriots for the burden they bear as their workers depart to serve our Nation and help keep America strong, secure, and free.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 11, 2001, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

**Executive Order 13234—
Presidential Task Force on Citizen
Preparedness in the War on
Terrorism**

November 9, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to support and enhance the efforts of the American public with respect to preparedness and

volunteerism in the war on terrorism, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is hereby established the “Presidential Task Force on Citizen Preparedness in the War On Terrorism” (Task Force).

Sec. 2. Membership. (a) The Task Force shall be composed of the heads of the following executive branch entities, who may designate representatives from within their respective entities to assist them in their duties in connection with the Task Force: the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Homeland Security, the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The heads of other executive branch departments and agencies and other senior executive branch officials may participate in the work of the Task Force upon the invitation of the Co-Chairs.

(b) The heads of the Office of Homeland Security and the Domestic Policy Council, or their designated representatives, shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

Sec. 3. Mission. The Task Force shall identify, review, and recommend appropriate means by which the American public can:

(a) prepare in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and public places for the potential consequences of any possible terrorist attacks within the United States; and

(b) volunteer to assist or otherwise support State and local public health and safety officials and others engaged in the effort to prevent, prepare for, and respond to any possible terrorist attacks within the United States.

Sec. 4. Reporting Requirement. The Task Force shall submit its recommendations to the President within 40 days from the date of this order.